

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8442

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02810

FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR
ANNENBERG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: MESSAGES TO PM WILSON FROM PRESIDENT NIXON AND
SECRETARY KISSINGER

REFS: LONDON 2763; STATE 043363, AND 043368

1. I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER WILSON AT 4:50 THIS
AFTERNOON AT 10 DOWNING STREET TO DELIVER CONGRATULATORY
MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. THE
PRIME MINISTER WAS VERY GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE BOTH
MESSAGES, AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS APPRECIATION TO
BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECTETARY. HE SAID THAT HE
WOULD REPLY PERSONALLY TO BOTH.

2. COMMENTING ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE, THE
PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED THAT HE WAS SURE THE SECRETARY
AND THE NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN WOULD
FIND IT EASY TO COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY. TURNING TO
ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER UNDER-
SCORED HIS HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE MARKED BY CORDIALITY
AND UNDERSTANDING. HE AGREED WITH ME THAT THE PRESS HAD
BEEN UNHELPFUL IN RECENT DAYS IN UNFAIRLY EXAGGERATING
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE DID NOT WISH
TO CRITICIZE THE PREVIOUS BRITISH GOVERNMENT BUT HE
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THOUGHT THE TIE WITH FRANCE HAD MADE US-UK RELATIONS

SOMEWHAT UNEASY.

3. I NOTED IT APPEARED THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT COME TO EUROPE FOR THE SIGNING OF THE ATLANTIC AND EC NINE DECLARATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DURING A EUROPEAN TRIP THE PRESIDENT MIGHT COME TO BRITAIN. THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PRESIDENT IN LONDON.

4. WHEN I RAISED THE QUESTION OF ENERGY AND THE US PROPOSALS, THE PRIME MINISTER REMINDED ME THAT HE HAD SPOKEN STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF OUR POSITION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THE DAY AFTER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH TO THE PILGRIMS. HE REITERATED HIS CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE US APPROACH.

5. MY BRIEF MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS VERY CORDIAL. I BELIEVE THAT THE FACT I WAS THE FIRST FOREIGN AMBASSADOR TO CALL ON HIM WAS APPRECIATED.

6. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TOMORROW MARCH 7 AT 4:30 P.M. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I COULD DELIVER PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO CALLAGHAN AT THAT TIME. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS IT WISHES ME TO RAISE WITH CALLAGHAN PLEASE ADVISE NOT LATER THAN 1530 LONDON TIME MARCH 7.

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